

7 FAM 750 U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH SHIPPING AND SEAMEN

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Numerous U.S. Government agencies are in some way concerned with ships and seamen. The principal agencies are listed below with a partial description of their functions. Foreign Service posts should contact these agencies only through the Department in matters involving policy. Routine communications may be mailed directly to these agencies.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Function</u>
U.S. Coast Guard (Department of Transportation) 2100 2nd Street SW., Washington, DC 20593	Issues merchant mariners' documents and licenses. Documents vessels. Investigates certain marine casualties. Investigates misconduct and takes disciplinary action concerning U.S. merchant seamen. Inspects and certifies vessels subject to U.S. inspection laws.
U.S. Customs Service (Department of the Treasury) 1301 Constitution Avenue SW., Washington, DC 22229	Certifies crew lists and export declarations. Clears ships upon entry. Coordinates activities with U.S. Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Agency, and other agencies.
U.S. Maritime Administration (Department of Transportation) 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20590	Handles operating and construction subsidies and other forms of promotional assistance to the Merchant Marine. Controls charter and sale of U.S. flag vessels to foreign interests.
Federal Maritime Commission (an independent regulatory agency) 1100 "L" Street NW., Washington, DC 20573	Regulates services, practices, and agreements of common carriers, acceptance, rejection, or disapproval of tariff filings of common carriers engaged in foreign commerce.
	Regulates rates, fares, charges, classifications, tariffs of common carriers by water in the domestic offshore trades of the United States. Licenses independent ocean freight forwarders.

Investigates discriminatory rates, charges, classifications, and practices in waterborne foreign and domestic offshore commerce.

Issues certificates evidencing financial responsibility of vessel owners or charterers to pay judgments for personal injury or death, or to repay fares for

nonperformance of voyages or cruises, or to meet liability to the United States for discharge of oil and hazardous substances.

Renders decisions and makes rules and regulations governing common carriers by water, terminal operators, and freight forwarders.

Handles problems concerning seamen of foreign nationality, their admissibility, shore leave in the United States, and service time aboard U.S. ships.

Licenses ship radio telegraphy equipment and radio operations.

Immigration and
Naturalization Service
(Department of Justice)
425 "I" Street NW.,
Washington, DC 20536

Federal Communications
Commission
1919 "M" Street NW.,
Washington, DC 20544

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